



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/588,854	08/09/2006	Kenzo Kase	039371-18	2013
5179 7590 12/23/2009 PEACOCK MYERS, P.C. 201 THIRD STREET, N.W. SUITE 1340 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102				
EXAMINER HICKS, VICTORIA J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3772				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/23/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/588,854

Applicant(s)

KASE, KENZO

Examiner

VICTORIA HICKS

Art Unit

3772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2009.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-30 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-30 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment filed on September 28, 2009.

Claims 1-18 were cancelled by Applicant.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's amendment to the abstract is sufficient to overcome the examiner's previous objection to the specification.

In response to Applicant's argument that Kase teaches away from Applicant's claimed grooves that extend in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction since the adhesive layer in Kase is wave shaped, simply that there are differences between two references is insufficient to establish that such references "teach away" from any combination thereof. *In re Beattie*, 974 F. 2d 1309, 1312-13, 24 USPQ2d, 1042 (Fed. Cir. 1992). While Kase does, in fact, teach a wave-shaped adhesive layer, Kase does not teach that an adhesive layer of other configurations would be ineffective. Kase, therefore, does not teach away from grooves that extend in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 19-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kase (US patent 5,861,348).

In regards to claim 19, Kase teaches in the abstract, Figures 1-3 and column 1, lines 40-45 a stretch base material (base cloth 2 formed of a stretchable wrap); an adhesive layer (5) comprising a plurality of grooves (gaps 6) disposed on said base material (2), wherein said grooves (6) extend in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction of said tape (1); said grooves (6) not containing adhesive (the base cloth is exposed) thereby facilitating breathability (permeability); and said grooves (6) not extending across the entire width of said tape (1) but having adhesive (5) between said grooves (6).

In regards to claim 20, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. Kase teaches in Figure 1 that the length of said grooves (6) changes stepwise repeating a gradual increase and decrease in said tape (1) longitudinal direction.

In regards to claim 21, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. In Figure 1, Kase teaches that the spacing between adjacent grooves (6) decreases stepwise from a shortest groove (6) toward the longest groove (6).

In regards to claim 22, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. In Figure 1, Kase teaches that the spacing between adjacent grooves (6) increases stepwise from a shortest groove (6) toward the longest recessed groove (6).

In regards to claim 23, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. Kase teaches in the abstract that the base material (base cloth) is exposed through the grooves (gaps).

In regards to claim 24, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. Kase teaches in Figure 1 that the grooves (6) are disposed parallel (having the same tendency or direction) to each other.

In regards to claim 25, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. In the abstract Kase teaches that the grooves (gaps 6) are on a stretchable base cloth. This would cause the width of said grooves (6) the change with expansion and contraction of the tape (1).

In regards to claim 26, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. In the abstract Kase teaches that adhesive layer is on a stretchable base cloth. This would cause the thickness of said adhesive layer to change with expansion and contraction of said tape (1) thereby changing a dept of said grooves (6).

In regards to claim 27, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. Kase teaches in Figure 2 and column 5, line 14 a peelable exfoliate layer (7) disposed on said adhesive layer (5).

In regards to claim 28, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. Kase teaches in Figure 1 that the array comprises a repetitive pattern.

In regards to claim 29, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. Kase teaches in Figure 1 that the grooves (6) are not arranged at regular spacing in said longitudinal direction.

In regards to claim 30, Kase teaches the apparatus of claim 19. Kase teaches in Figure 1 that the grooves (6) comprise different lengths.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VICTORIA HICKS whose telephone number is (571)270-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco can be reached on (571) 272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/V. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3772
12/17/09

/Patricia Bianco/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3772